

Information for Medical Doctors and Patients when Ordering PCB, PBB and Pesticide Testing from the Michigan Department of Community Health – Bureau of Laboratories

Step 1: Communication of Results

All requests must be initiated by the patient's physician. The patient should only communicate with their doctor's office and not directly with the laboratory. The laboratory cannot communicate directly with patients or relatives. Results will be sent to the doctor's office.

Step 2: Medical Doctor's Office Determines Costs and Orders Supplies

The medical doctor's office should contact the laboratory (Analytical Chemistry Division, 517-335-9490) to determine the current costs and sample collection methods, which are dependent on the tests ordered. After determining the tests to be ordered, the medical doctor's office will need to contact the Laboratory Support Unit of the Bureau of Laboratories (Phone: 517-335-9867), FAX: 517-335-9039 or WEB:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdchlab>) to request an order form for the supplies required to collect and send the blood sample. Please note, the doctor's office will need to order Unit 14 on the CLINICAL SPECIMEN SHIPPING UNITS REQUISITION, form number DCH-0568.

Step 3. Payment for Tests

Medical tests and procedures are coded to facilitate medical billing using CPT codes (or current procedural terminology) codes. This coding system was developed by the American Medical Association to provide uniform terminology to assist in medical billing and other administrative functions. No specific code exists for brominated compounds (such as PBBs). Available test codes include: Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Screen = 82441, Single analyte analysis = 82491, Multianalyte analysis = 82492 (for use with PBB, PCB and/or Pesticides). The patient should work through their doctor's office and with their insurance company to determine if these chemical blood analyses are covered by their insurance company. (It is common for these types of blood tests to not be covered by medical insurance.) When a medical doctor orders these tests, the MDCH laboratory requires that a check for the cost of analysis accompany the samples.

Step 4. Blood Sample Collection

The blood sample collection should be arranged by the medical doctor's office. Any questions regarding sample collected should come from the doctor's office to the Analytical Chemistry Division, (517-335-9490). Typically, a minimum of 4 ml of serum is required for the analysis, thus at least one red-top tube is collected. Directions are included with the kit. To summarize: collect the sample, spin down the sample to isolate serum, transfer the serum to the vial provided and ship using the label provided in the Unit 14 Kit (see order form).

Step 5. Testing by MDCH Laboratory and Time Required to Receive Results

The samples will be integrated into the existing laboratory schedule. This reduces the cost of the test to the patient. These types of blood tests require several additional samples to be tested along with the patient's sample to ensure that the result is accurate [i.e., quality control samples]. Integrating these samples into the laboratory testing schedule allows the patient to not have to pay for these additional quality control samples. Given this integration process, it is not possible to provide a set turn around time (Results may take as long as 4 months to be reported.)